Precautionary steps taken to obviate such mine accidents include stringent quality control of mines and fuzes, destruction and replacement of stocks of older vintage, and providing better on the job training to troops employed in mine laying activities.

Losses suffered by farmers of Rajasthan due to laying of landmines and mobilisation of troops

774. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of farmers of four Western Districts of Rajasthan whose fields and crops have been destroyed due to laying of landmines and mobilisation of troops, are waiting for compensation for losses suffered by them;

(b) if so, whether Government has not released the full amount of compensation;

(c) if so, the amount released so far and the remaining amount to be released; and

(d) by when the entire amount is likely to be released?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) The State Government of Rajasthan have projected a tentative loss of Rs. 55.13 crores to the crops of the farmers occurred during the preparatory stage of defence preparations/movement of Armed Forces in the border areas of Rajasthan. To Give an immediate relief to the farmers, a sum of Rs. 13.80 crores, which is 25% of the amount projected by the State Revenue Authorities as loss towards the crops, has been sanctioned to the State Government of Rajasthan as "on account" payment to be made to the individual farmers. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 10 crores (approximately) has already been disbursed to the affected people/farmers. However, to know the exact losses occurred to the crops of the farmers, Board of Officers have already been ordered by the Army Authorities consisting of representatives of Army, Directorate General of Defence

Estates and local Revenue Authorities to conduct Joint surveys for the purpose. The balance amount of compensation will be released to the State Government on finalisation of Board of Officers' proceedings.

Construction of destructive submarines

†775. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Navy has prepared project for the construction of some destructive submarines to enhance its capability;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any target has been fixed to complete this project?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government have approved a long term perspective plan for indigenous construction of submarines and acquisition of national competence in submarine building. The plan is to be implemented in two phases. The first phase is scheduled for completion in 2012 and the second phase in 2030.

Modernisation of MiG Aircrafts

†776. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to modernise the MIG Aircrafts keeping in view their countinuous air crashes;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a team of Russian experts visited India;

(c) if so, the report of the Russian experts and Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. in this regard;

(d) the target laid down for the modernisation of the MiG fleet; and

(e) the number of aircrafts of defence fleet crashed since January, 1999 to date and the reasons for these crashes?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi